

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CAN:DBLAKEMORE:PW

APPROVED BY EUR/CAN:JHROUSE, JR.

L/EUR - DGANTZ (SUBS)

FCC - CJSTURM (INFO)

EB/TT/TD - JO'NEILL

STR - MPOMERANZ (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, CA

SUBJECT: BORDER TELEVISION

REF: STATE 312726, 12/29/76

1. CANADIAN EMBASSY INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT JANUARY 7 THAT GOC HAS NO OBJECTION TO NOTIFICATION OF U.S. TELEVISION STATIONS OF ITS DECISION REGARDING COMMERCIAL DELETION (REFTEL), PROVIDED THAT THE STATIONS AGREE TO KEEP THIS INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL FOR THE TIME BEING. GOC IS ANXIOUS THAT CRTC HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE FIRST PUBLIC REFERENCE TO ITS DECISION, AND EXPECTS THAT THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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2. EUR/CAN DIRECTOR ROUSE MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MOST OF THE BORDER STATIONS JANUARY 10 TO CONVEY THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION. THE STATION LAWYERS, WHO HAD AGREED IN ADVANCE TO HOLD THIS INFORMATION IN CONFIDENCE, WERE QUITE PLEASED WITH THE GOC DECISION. PRE-DICTABLY, THERE WAS LIVELY INTEREST IN OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY IMPACT ON THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION OF

A PETITION UNDER SECTION 301 OF THE TRADE ACT AGAINST BILL C-58. ROUSE DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON SUCH A LINKAGE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT

IN THE COURSE OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE LAST YEAR, IT WAS THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH INSISTED UPON THE SEPARATION OF C-58 AND COMMERCIAL DELETION. THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE AWKWARD FOR THE GOC TO RELINK THE TWO ISSUES AT THIS POINT. HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT A 301 PETITION AGAINST C-58 PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOC'S DECISION ON DELETION COULD AT THE VERY LEAST BE EMBARRASSING. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE IDEAL SCENARIO WOULD BE TO HOLD OFF ANY 301 PETITION UNTIL AFTER THE COMMERCIAL DELETION DECISION IS ANNOUNCED AND PUBLIC REACTION TO IT HAS SUBSIDED. ATTORNEYS FOR KVOS AND THE OTHER STATIONS INTERESTED IN SECTION 301 DID NOT REVEAL THEIR INTENTIONS, BUT THEY DID PROMISE TO KEEP THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED.

3. THE MEETING ENDED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL OF THE STATIONS EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM.

4. EMBASSY MAY INFORM O'BRIEN ET AL IN CONFIDENCE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GOC DECISION.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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